GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1690
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2008
TEA TRADE
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reached an agreement with Sri Lanka and Russia with regard to trade in tea;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the details of the foreign exchange earned by the Government after the said agreements become operational; and

(d) the quantity of tea exported to both countries so far?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b): India has signed trade agreements with Sri Lanka and Russia which include matters relating to trade in tea. Under the agreement with Sri Lanka signed in 2000, India has granted concessional rate of duty on import of tea from Sri Lanka on a quantity not more than 15 million kgs. in a year.Under the agreement with Russia in 2007, Russia shall grant legal protection for Geographical Indications (GIs) for 'Darjeeling Tea', 'Assam Tea' and 'Nilgiri Tea' among other goods.

(c) & (d) The tea exported by India to Sri Lanka and Russia and the value thereof is given below:

(Qty. in thousand kg)
(Value in Rs. Lac)

	Sri Lanka		Russia	
Year	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
2000	1244	922.87	85870	62129.76
2001	966	910.99	66878	46882.97
2002	1441	1260.25	48296	31199.89
2003	1835	1482.10	43002	27582.32
2004	3425	2734.90	38206	27183.68
2005	2087	1951.39	35887	26784.40
2006	3186	3062.46	36993	29076.75
2007	2880	2441.00	34410	27759.00

(Estimated)